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Turkey

Economic/Ports/Technicians

Turkey

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1. Turkey is enjoying a period of great expansion and full employment, but a very serious inflation of the lira. With an official exchange rate of 2.8 lira to the dollar there is black market rate of 5.25 lira to the dollar, which is used in most transactions with the government's acceptance.
2. Wheat production has increased in direct proportion to the number of tractors in use, 39,000 in contrast to 2,500 before the boom started. The farmers are prosperous, as the government pays them twice as much for the wheat as it sells it for in the world market.
3. The only port in which there has been any substantial improvement during the last two years is Iskenderun. The improvements at this port are mainly concerned with its military advantages. These improvements should be completed early in 1954 and were it not for the military needs, it could probably handle the wheat, coal and chrome (one half the Turkish production) offered. As only two boats can be loaded at a time, however, not much improvement in loading capacity can be expected until additional piers can be built.
4. The question of lack of technicians is not peculiar to Turkey, but has some disturbing local angles. There is a distinct cleavage between engineers educated in the US and those educated in Turkey. Those educated in the US, called locally Americans, have a feeling that they should immediately be mine managers although they know no more about "getting out the ore" than the graduates of Turkish colleges.
5. Ety Bank will exhaust their open pit chrome mines in the near future and must go to underground mining. This will require technical men of considerable skill. They have no skilled underground technicians, and government officials have told me they won't need them. This attitude is bound to have a serious effect on the chrome production in the not far distant future.

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